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April 2017



Nursing Students Get Creative in Helping Community

Nursing is a hands-on profession often associated with needles, stethoscopes, and bandages. However, in addition to traditional training, nursing students at Southern Adventist University are finding unique and tangible ways to improve the health of their community. Through a newly restructured approach to community health training, bachelor's degree students take a required series of classes that start in the classroom and end up in the community, putting theory into practice. Groups of two to four students partner with local organizations, identify a need, and get to work. The goal is to create and implement a fully-functioning resource that the organization can continue using after the students are gone.

"We want students to get out there, representing not only Southern but also Christ to our neighbors," said Beckie Retzer, assistant professor in the School of Nursing. "We hope these class projects will have a lasting impact both on them and community members."

Mark Childress, senior nursing major, and two classmates identified a need in a local emergency department's secure room for psychiatric patients. To protect occupants from harming themselves, the room was bare and utilitarian, with nothing for them to do.

"We witnessed physical outbursts and mental breakdowns," Childress said. "One man commented that he felt like a caged animal and had nothing else to do besides act out."

Childress' group researched ideas and settled on a simple but effective solution—the team painted one wall with nontoxic chalkboard paint in a soothing blue and found a dustless, nontoxic chalk

that wouldn't cause harm, even if it was swallowed. This provided patients with an outlet, a way to occupy themselves safely. It was a hit!

"One lady even wrote a thank-you note on the wall before she was transferred," Childress said. Through the team's initiative, the hospital became the first in Tennessee to offer this therapy to its psych patients.

Another group of students collaborated with the Standifer Gap Seventh-day Adventist Church to share better nutrition with the community. Students prepared a recipe booklet that included original recipes, shopping lists, and easy instructions. Then they worked with church members to hold a cooking school where the students demonstrated the recipes.

Other groups took on projects such as translating health pamphlets at a clinic for the underserved, providing diabetes awareness and training in local elementary schools, and working with Muslim refugees in the area to get proper nutrition in their new environment.

"This class helped me to think outside the box," said Shannon DeRogatis, senior nursing major. "I have been a registered nurse for several years, but this really put me outside of my comfort zone. Being able to share the knowledge that I have learned over the past several years was extremely rewarding."

~Janell Hullquist

Mark Childress, senior nursing major, painting a chalkboard wall for psychiatric patients.



Academic Summer Camps

High school students are invited to Southern this summer, June 5-7, to explore and sharpen their vocational interests before even starting college. They can choose from 10 academic camps, including Social Work and Missions, Photography, Civil War History, Computing, and more. Each three-day camp includes a spiritual component as well, modeling how Adventist education facilitates the marriage of career and calling. For more information, visit southern.edu/camps.

APRIL

15 SonRise

Hosted by the Asian Club, this much-anticipated cultural night highlights various Asian countries and cultures through food, music, entertainment, and more.

22 Dusk 'til Dawn Race

Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists at 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

23 Strawberry Festival

Canoeing trip.

27 Symphony Orchestra Concert

Iles P.E. Center at 9 p.m.

29 Jazz Ensemble Concert

Ackerman Auditorium at 9 p.m. Free admission.

MAY

01 Semester Exams Begin

Visit southern.edu/administration/records/examschedule to see the Winter 2017 exam schedule.

05 Consecration

Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists at 8 p.m.

05 Social Work Pinning

Ackerman Auditorium at 6 p.m.

06 Baccalaureate

Chattanooga Convention Center at 11 a.m.

06 School of Nursing Dedication

Chattanooga Convention Center at 7 p.m.

06 School of Education and Psychology Dedication

Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists at 4 p.m.

07 Commencement

Chattanooga Convention Center at 9:30 a.m.

08 Summer Session 1 Begins

Timeless Teachings

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Political Science

History and Political Studies Department to Offer New Foundational Major

Students interested in law and government careers will soon have a major tailored for them. Southern’s History and Political Studies Department will begin offering a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science this fall.

Professor and chair of the department, Kris Erskine, PhD, said many students have expressed an ongoing interest in the major.

“The department as a whole is excited,” Erskine said. “This is such a fundamental part of what a department like this should offer.”

Political science was previously only available as a minor. This new major will equip students with a wide range of skills, not only sharpening their critical

thinking and analytical aptitude, but also advancing their ability to communicate verbally and through writing.

Students will engage in core political science classes, while further enriching their learning in a specific area of their choice including political theory, American politics, comparative politics, or international relations.

Shannon Martin, assistant professor of political studies, said the areas of focus are designed with the students’ future in mind. After graduation, students will be equipped to work nationally and internationally or to further their education through graduate school.

Martin said extensive research was conducted while creating and developing

the degree. Through comparing political science programs offered at other private and public universities, the department worked to create a competitive and holistic program for students.

The department may hire an additional adjunct to facilitate the major and may increase the classes offered if another professor is hired.

The new undergraduate course catalog launched March 24, making official requirements for the new major accessible at southern.edu/catalog.

~ Staff Report

Student Life: Students Prepare Tax Returns for the Needy

Southern students aren’t only spending time studying; they’re actively putting those cultivated skills to work by helping others through a consistently stressful time. With Tax Day fast approaching, students from Southern’s School of Business are continuing a four-year tradition of providing free tax preparations for low-income and elderly people in the greater Chattanooga area. This volunteer work not only serves the local community but also gives students professional-level experience and credentials.

Students work through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at Southern, which is officially certified by the IRS. VITA enlists student volunteers from January into the first week of March. In order to serve with the program, students first go through training and then a rigorous exam to become certified tax preparers. The certification and

experience gained through VITA is a significant asset for students hoping to work in the business world and beyond.

This year, 18 students passed the test, the most since Southern began the program, according to site coordinator Mark Hyder, JD, dean of the School of Business, who volunteers alongside the students.

“This is an opportunity to impact lives in our community,” Hyder said. “It’s tremendously rewarding to make a difference.”

Senior business administration major Martha Freire is a VITA volunteer this year. She is glad to be part of a program that addresses such a deep need.

“There are a lot of people out there who are scared of doing their taxes,” Freire said. “It can be frightening, especially for people who have just hit the age where they are dealing with Medicare and Social Security.”

Hyder appreciates that this program allows students and faculty to use their God-given gifts to help those in need.



“I’m not a nurse. I can’t give shots. I can’t make people better,” Hyder said. “I’m a certified public accountant. This is what I can do. With the VITA program, we get to apply our talents to a need right here in our backyard.”

~ Tierra Hayes

\$50 Million Campaign Addresses College Affordability

A Special Message from President David Smith



For decades, most people in the United States have agreed that the primary purpose of college is to prepare students for a specific type of job. Employers, however, believe that students need better acquisition of soft skills coupled with practical training and an ability to apply knowledge for the multiple career paths ahead of them. As research shows, today’s college graduates will hold between eight and 14 different jobs between graduation from college and their 40th birthday.

Understandably, parents would like their children to earn a college degree leading to gainful employment in the least amount of time and in the most affordable way. Southern is dedicated to helping prepare students for this kind of fluid job

market, and we are committed to doing so as affordably as possible.

One-way we are addressing this issue is through our \$50 million Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning. The single largest component of the campaign focuses on increasing our endowment and student scholarships to help more students access the tools that will unlock their future. We are grateful for your dedication to your child’s academic success and spiritual future, and we are excited to be a part of their journey.

To follow the campaign’s progress, visit southern.edu/webelieve.

-David Smith, PhD, President, Southern Adventist University

Meet the Pastor

An Interview With Dave Ferguson

Q: What led you to accept the senior pastor position at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists?

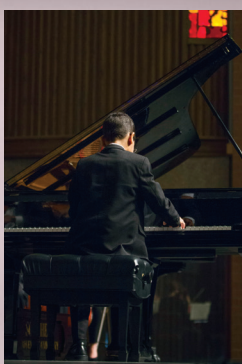
A: The tasks that I have been given as senior pastor match my passions and my strengths. What I do each day energizes me. For example, I am drawn towards the 20-year-olds’ experience in spirituality, their choices about God, and their relationship with the church. I’m also drawn to the church’s ability to interact with college students, to give space for their conversations, to consider their questions, and to allow their innovations to predict the survival of the church.

Q: In what new ways are you engaging Southern students?

A: It is the students’ choice to attend this church or not, so we must be worthy of that choice. I believe that having an engaging worship for a college student is important, but we need something much deeper than that. I would like the Collegedale Church to be inarguably the best choice for a Southern Adventist University student to attend because we are integrating them on every level of ministry. We have the size of church to be able to give opportunities for students to engage in anything that they would love to be engaged in. We need new ideas, new leadership, and for the students’ voice to be heard clearly.

Q: How do you plan on getting more involved with Southern?

A: It will be my habit to say yes to everything I can that involves students at Southern. Various students have already asked me to attend dorm worships, discuss with them the Sabbath in their lives, or join them on spiritual retreats such as those through Campus Ministries. Right now it feels like the Collegedale Church and Southern are separate. What I would like is for the church to push out across the road and for it to feel present without students having to cross the road. If we want to do something that is welcoming to the students, we can’t just do it inside the church building.



Southern has six main ensembles that offer students of all skill levels the opportunity to expand their musical knowledge and experience. Music is in full swing during Winter semester with concerts, recitals, and festivals. Pictured above is Southern's Symphony Orchestra, as well as high school students who were invited to participate in the 2017 Honor Music Instrumental Festival.

Sounds of Southern

Student Association TALENT SHOW



Braian Gomez and his group "Voculus," won third place with their acapella performance.



Andrew Korp, sophomore theology major, and Alec Williams, freshman physical education major, wowed the audience with magic tricks.

Matthew Lopez, senior biology major, delivered a passionate rendition of Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!."



Dressed as a pirate, Jacob Martin, senior bio-medical major, stole the show winning first place with his piano arrangement of "He's a Pirate."



Three judges, Mark Comberiate, School of Visual Art and Design productions manager; Rachel Cundiff, junior nursing major; and Adam Sawyer, senior communications major, applauded and critiqued contestants.



Riley Kim, junior biology major, won second place with a ukulele solo.

Tyler Hodges, senior religious education major, brought laughter to the show with a comedy song.



Marielsy Pimental, senior psychology major, serenaded the audience with a piano-accompanied song.

Greg Wright, junior liberal arts education major, and Armondi Stokes, junior film production major, hosted this year's Talent Show.

